

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for rolling a sod strip into a sod roll comprising:

a transport conveyor for displacing the sod strip;

a first sensor configured to sense movement of the transport conveyor;

a starter for initiating the rolling of the sod strip in proximity to a leading portion of the sod strip being displaced by the transport conveyor;

a tray for at least partially retarding displacement of an upper portion of the sod roll as it passes to assist rolling the sod strip;

an edge detector for detecting a trailing edge of the sod strip as the sod strip is displaced on the transport conveyor;

a roll-up conveyor for further rolling up the sod strip, the roll-up conveyor operating in a direction opposite the transport conveyor; and

a holding conveyor, the holding conveyor maintaining the sod roll on the transport conveyor;

a second sensor operating in cooperation with the edge detector, wherein the second sensor is activated when the edge detector has detected the trailing edge portion of the sod strip;

a controller, the controller receiving inputs from the first and second sensors, the controller deactivating operation of the holding conveyor after a predetermined amount

of movement of the transport conveyor sensed by the first sensor and after activation of the second sensor to position the sod roll in a predetermined orientation.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the edge detector comprises a runner configured to move from a sod engaging position to a second position not engaging the sod upon the displacement of the sod along the transport conveyor, said runner further operating in cooperation with the second sensor, wherein the second sensor produces a controller readable signal when the edge detector has detected the trailing edge portion of the sod strip.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the holding conveyor is oriented generally diagonally with respect to the roll-up conveyor.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the holding conveyor operates in the same direction as the transport conveyor.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller determines the remaining length of the sod strip to be displaced by the transport conveyor in accordance with displacement of the sod strip along the transport conveyor as a function of inputs from the first and second sensors.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for rolling a sod strip being displaced by a transport conveyor into a sod roll comprising:

a trailing edge sensor for detecting a trailing edge portion of the sod strip;

a retaining device for retaining the sod roll in the conveyor as the sod strip is rolled into a sod roll; and

an ejector device for ejecting the roll in accordance with a position of the trailing edge portion of the sod strip;

a holding conveyor, the holding conveyor located in proximity to an end of the transport conveyor, wherein activation of the holding conveyor retains the sod roll on the transport conveyor and deactivation of the holding conveyor enables the sod roll to move off of the transport conveyor;

wherein the ejector device further comprises a controller, the controller configured to control the transport and holding conveyors, said controller further configured to receive an input signal from the trailing edge sensor and enabling a user definable time delay before deactivating the holding conveyor to position the sod roll in a predetermined orientation;

a transport conveyor sensor, the transport conveyor sensor measuring displacement of the transport conveyor, wherein the controller deactivates the holding conveyor in response to a predetermined length of displacement of the transport conveyor following detection of the trailing edge portion of the sod strip; and

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[9]] 8 wherein the trailing edge sensor comprises a member in contact with the sod strip, the member being displaced to a first position when in contact with the sod strip and being displaced to a second position when not in contact with the strip, wherein displacement between the first and second positions indicates the presence of an edge portion of the sod strip.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method for rolling sod strips into a sod roll comprising the steps of:

providing a transport conveyor;

locating a trailing edge portion of the sod strip;

determining a user adjustable time delay which is a function of the displacement of the transport conveyor and the location of the trailing edge portion of the strip;

retaining the sod roll in the transport conveyor as the sod strip is rolled into a sod roll;

rotationally adjusting the roll to a predetermined orientation; and

measuring displacement of the transport conveyor;

ejecting the roll;

wherein the step of retaining further comprises providing a holding conveyor, the holding conveyor located in proximity to an end of the transport conveyor, wherein activation of the holding conveyor retains the sod roll on the transport conveyor and deactivation of the holding conveyor enables the sod roll to move off of the transport conveyor; and

wherein deactivating the holding conveyor in response to a predetermined length of displacement of the transport conveyor following detection of the trailing edge portion of the sod strip.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of detecting the trailing edge portion further comprises providing a member to contact the sod strip to indicate a first position when in contact with the sod strip and being displaced to a second position when not in contact with the sod strip, wherein displacement between the first and second positions indicates the presence of a trailing edge portion of the sod strip.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of ejecting further comprises enabling adjustable time delay before deactivating the ~~holdup~~ holding conveyor.

17. (Cancelled)